

Dear Hitt's Hill Volunteers,

1/30/06

Thank you for your participation in an extremely cold and rainy January 28th site visit to set 2006 work plan priorities. We greatly appreciate everyone staying through the entire walk-through, so we can move forward implementing the Vegetation Management plan. Your fortitude demonstrates a true commitment to the Park and your interest in seeing successful restoration carried forward.

As a group and using the VMP as a template, we identified six major priority projects for 2006, listed below in order of priority. Most of these can be accomplished with current funding, volunteer efforts and the support of Parks District Staff and the Parks Natural Area Crew. The signage issue will require an additional funding source and additional community input. Routine maintenance of planted areas including removing new blackberry and ivy sprouts and mulching will continue year-round. Regular maintenance activities are to be performed at the scheduled 2nd Saturday monthly Hitt's Hill work parties. All additional work parties and major project event dates must be cleared with the Citywide Horticulture office through Mark Mead.

2006 Hitt's Hill Project Priorities

1. Research 37th Ave S. entrance sign design and seek funds to install. (Feb-April)
2. Improve Parks website with links to Parks volunteer events calendars, Friends of Hitt's Hill website, project contacts, and updated work priorities.
3. Finish planting objectives in Areas 1-5 including enhancing entry with a few large, "specimen" conifers. (Feb-March)
4. Add 2-3 large rocks adjacent to 37th Ave. S stairwell to protect slope. (Feb-April)
5. Lightly grade NE toe slope, compost, mulch and plant in wildland aesthetic with natives, protect from encroachment with "Lincoln Log" style barrier. (Grade when dry, plant in fall)
6. Plant 39th Ave S. rockery wall with natives including kinnikinnick. (Fall)

Below please find an amended version of our walk-through paperwork that re-prioritizes the work project details. Each project detail has a priority label 1-3. Projects labeled Priority 1 are expected to be addressed within the next 3 months (February – April 2005), projects labeled Priority 2 will be addressed by year-end 2005. Priority 3 projects are to be kept on the list for subsequent years.

Thank you again for all of your hard work and support of this highly successful restoration project.

Sincerely,

Mark Mead, Sr. Urban Forester
(206) 684-4113
mark.mead@seattle.gov

Katie Moller, Urban Forester
(206) 233-5019
katie.moller@seattle.gov

Existing Area	Vegetation Management Zone	Priority	Recommended Action	Who can do the work, other special conditions
1	C-2	1 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate sign design options and bring to community Seek funding source for desired signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks UF /CE District Staff Volunteers
2	C-1	1 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance plantings with a few larger conifers Inspect rhododendron for insect damage agent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers/Contractor Parks
3	C-2	1 1 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance understory vegetation on sloped area Conifer root crowns buried, remove mulch at base of tree Add 2 or 3, 2 to 3 man rocks and soil/fabric/plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers/Contractor Volunteers Contractor (Design to Parks 1st)
4	C-1, C-2, D-1 on east boundary	1 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant buffer understory plants at west 15-20 feet of west edge adjoining property Revegetate throughout with native understory shrubs and groundcover, heavily mulch, plant C-1, C-2 "summit" tree species toward west and north edge, control grass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers/Contractor
5	D-1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selectively restore understory with appropriate shrubs and small trees (increase evergreen shrub component) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers/Contractor
6	D-1	3 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential area to begin demonstration plant labeling/interpretation Decrease width of side trail (north spur) with plantings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers Natural Area Crew
8	D-1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant buffer understory within 15-20 feet of south property line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers
9	D-1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental plantings in bare areas, mulch, control grass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers
10	D-2	2 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat invasive laurel Plant area on top of rockery with kinnikinnick and other appropriate native groundcover to visually soften wall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks Natural Area Crew Volunteers
11	D-1	2 1 3 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trim blackberry away from establishing native plants and maintain blackberry-free five-foot buffer against fence Demonstrate "feathered" approach to blackberry removal/native plant expansion on border of planting Leave spur trail informal, logs may be left in place for 3 years to keep foot traffic away from new plantings. Revisit trail construction after stewardship trails have served their purpose and are decommissioned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers/Natural Area Crew Parks Urban Forester Community meeting TBD
13	C-1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove remaining laurel hedge after screen of native vegetation develops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbor
14	C-2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Area 10 recommendation for rockery planting 	
15	D-2	2 2 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade soil from rockery excavation Plant for wildlife, no erosion control or rock features in this area, plant with tough buffer plantings. "Lincoln Log" style barricade to limit encroachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor Contractor/Volunteers Parks CE District Staff